

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A microchip comprising:

a channel having at least one internal surface, a substantially trapezoidal-shaped cross-section, and the channel having an upper surface thereof that is longer than a lower surface thereof, wherein an object to be analyzed is capable of traveling through the channel;

an optical element facing the channel to receive light from the object, the optical element having a surface forming a part of the at least one internal surface of the channel; and

a light guide for guiding a light from an external light source to a prescribed area of the channel, a light-emitting surface of the light guide being a portion of a first side surface of the channel, wherein the first side surface of the channel is adapted to concentrate the light emitted from the light guide to the ~~side of the channel facing~~ surface of the optical element;

the microchip further comprising, as deflecting elements for approximating the object in the channel to the optical element:

a first electrode provided to face the channel at a vicinity of the optical element, the first electrode provided on the upper surface of the channel; and

a second electrode provided to face the channel at an upstream side of the optical element with respect to a traveling direction of the object, the second electrode provided on the lower surface of the channel,

wherein the optical element is provided at the prescribed area, and

wherein the object is capable of being approximated to the optical element in a direction transverse to a length of the channel by applying a predetermined electric field between the first and second electrodes.

32. (Previously Presented) A microchip as claimed in claim 31, wherein the channel further includes a second side surface; and wherein each of the first and second side surfaces is a sloped surface.

33. (Previously Presented) A microchip as claimed in claim 32, wherein the light-emitting surface of the light guide is formed to have a slope similar to that of the first side surface of the channel.